

**EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATION AMENDMENTS**

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This bill creates the Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council and the Governor's Early Childhood Commission.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ creates the Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council (council) in the Department of Health;
- ▶ creates the Governor's Early Childhood Commission (commission) in the governor's office; and
- ▶ describes the duties of the council and the membership and duties of the commission.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:****ENACTS:**

- 26-66-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 26-66-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 26-66-201**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 26-66-202**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 26-66-203**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 63M-13-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 63M-13-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 63M-13-201**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 63M-13-202**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 63M-13-203**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

33 **63M-13-204**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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35 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

36 Section 1. Section **26-66-101** is enacted to read:

37 **CHAPTER 66. EARLY CHILDHOOD UTAH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

38 **Part 1. General Provisions**

39 **26-66-101. Title.**

40 This chapter is known as the "Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council."

41 Section 2. Section **26-66-102** is enacted to read:

42 **26-66-102. Definitions.**

43 As used in this chapter:

44 (1) "Commission" means the Governor's Early Childhood Commission created in  
45 Section 63M-13-201.

46 (2) "Council" means the Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council created in Section  
47 26-66-201.

48 Section 3. Section **26-66-201** is enacted to read:

49 **Part 2. Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council**

50 **26-66-201. Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council.**

51 (1) There is created the Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council.

52 (2) The department shall make rules establishing the membership, duties, and  
53 procedures of the council in accordance with the requirements of:

54 (a) this chapter;

55 (b) the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9837b;  
56 and

57 (c) Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

58 Section 4. Section **26-66-202** is enacted to read:

59 **26-66-202. Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council -- Duties.**

60 (1) The council shall serve as an entity dedicated to improving and coordinating the  
61 quality of programs and services for children in accordance with the Improving Head Start for  
62 School Readiness Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9837b.

63 (2) The council shall advise the commission and, on or before August 1, annually

64 provide to the commission:

65 (a) a statewide assessment concerning the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten  
66 services for children from low-income households; and

67 (b) a statewide strategic report addressing the activities mandated by the Improving  
68 Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9837b, including:

69 (i) identifying opportunities for and barriers to collaboration and coordination among  
70 federally-funded and state-funded child health and development, child care, and early  
71 childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among  
72 state agencies responsible for administering such programs;

73 (ii) evaluating the overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local  
74 child care programs and early childhood health, development, family support, and education  
75 programs;

76 (iii) recommending statewide professional development and career advancement plans  
77 for early childhood educators and service providers in the state, including an analysis of the  
78 capacity and effectiveness of programs at two- and four-year public and private institutions of  
79 higher education that support the development of early childhood educators; and

80 (iv) recommending improvements to the state's early learning standards and  
81 high-quality comprehensive early learning standards.

82 (3) On or before August 1, 2020, and at least every five years thereafter, the council  
83 shall provide to the commission a statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and  
84 availability of early childhood education, health, and development programs and services for  
85 children in early childhood.

86 Section 5. Section **26-66-203** is enacted to read:

87 **26-66-203. Compensation.**

88 A member of the council may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's  
89 service.

90 Section 6. Section **63M-13-101** is enacted to read:

91 **CHAPTER 13. GOVERNOR'S EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION**

92 **Part 1. General Provisions**

93 **63M-13-101. Title.**

94 This chapter is known as the "Governor's Early Childhood Commission."

Section 7. Section **63M-13-102** is enacted to read:

**63M-13-102. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Commission" means the Governor's Early Childhood Commission created in Section 63M-12-103.

(2) "Early childhood" refers to a child in the state who is six years of age or younger.

Section 8. Section **63M-13-201** is enacted to read:

**Part 2. Governor's Early Childhood Commission**

**63M-13-201. Creation of the Governor's Early Childhood Commission.**

(1) There is created within the governor's office the Governor's Early Childhood Commission consisting of the following five members:

(a) the lieutenant governor, who shall serve as chair of the commission;

(b) the executive director of the Department of Workforce Services or the deputy director if designated by the executive director;

(c) the executive director of the Department of Health or the deputy director if designated by the executive director;

(d) the executive director of the Department of Human Services or the deputy director if designated by the executive director; and

(e) the state superintendent of public instruction or a deputy superintendent if designated by the superintendent.

(2) The chair of the commission, with the approval of the commission, shall appoint a vice chair of the commission.

(3) The commission chair:

(a) is responsible for the call and conduct of meetings;

(b) shall call and hold meetings of the commission at least quarterly;

(c) shall call additional meetings upon request by a majority of the commission's members; and

(d) may delegate duties to the vice chair.

(4) A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum of the commission at any meeting and the action of the majority of members present is the action of the commission.

(5) A member of the commission may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:

(a) Section 63A-3-106;

(b) Section 63A-3-107; and

(c) rules made by the Division of Finance in accordance with Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.

(6) The Department of Workforce Services shall provide staff support to the commission.

Section 9. Section **63M-13-202** is enacted to read:

**63M-13-202. Executive director.**

The governor shall appoint a full-time or part-time executive director of the commission.

Section 10. Section **63M-13-203** is enacted to read:

**63M-13-203. Duties of the commission.**

(1) The responsibilities of the commission include:

(a) supporting Utah parents and families, who have family members that are in early childhood, by providing comprehensive and accurate information regarding the availability of services that are available to children in early childhood from state agencies and other private and public entities;

(b) facilitating improved coordination between state agencies and community partners that provide services to children in early childhood;

(c) sharing and analyzing information regarding early childhood issues in the state;

(d) developing and coordinating a comprehensive delivery system of services for children in early childhood that addresses the following four areas:

(i) family support and safety;

(ii) health and development;

(iii) early learning; and

(iv) economic development; and

(e) identifying opportunities for and barriers to the alignment of standards, rules, policies, and procedures across programs and agencies that support children in early childhood.

(2) To fulfill the responsibilities described in Subsection (1), the commission shall:

(a) directly engage with parents, families, community members, and public and private service providers to identify and address:

(i) the quality, effectiveness, and availability of existing services for children in early childhood and the coordination of those services;

(ii) gaps and barriers to entry in the provision of services for children in early childhood; and

(iii) community-based solutions in improving the quality, effectiveness, and availability of services for children in early childhood;

(b) seek regular and ongoing feedback from a wide range of entities and individuals that use or provide services for children in early childhood, including entities and individuals that use, represent, or provide services for any of the following:

(i) children in early childhood who live in urban, suburban, or rural areas of the state;

(ii) children in early childhood with varying socioeconomic backgrounds;

(iii) children in early childhood with varying ethnic or racial heritage;

(iv) children in early childhood from various geographic areas of the state; and

(v) children in early childhood with special needs;

(c) study, evaluate, and report on the status and effectiveness of policies, procedures, and programs that provide services to children in early childhood;

(d) study and evaluate the effectiveness of policies, procedures, and programs implemented by other states and nongovernmental entities that address the needs of children in early childhood;

(e) identify policies, procedures, and programs that are impeding efforts to help children in early childhood in the state and recommend and implement changes to those policies, procedures, and programs;

(f) identify policies, procedures, and programs related to children in early childhood in the state that are inefficient or duplicative and recommend and implement changes to those policies, procedures, and programs;

(g) recommend policy, procedure, and program changes to address the needs of children in early childhood;

(h) develop methods for using interagency information to inform comprehensive policy and budget decisions relating to early childhood services;

(i) develop, recommend, and coordinate a comprehensive delivery system of services for children in early childhood; and

(j) develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning:

(i) increasing school readiness;

(ii) improving access to child care and early education programs; and

(iii) improving family and community engagement in early childhood education and development.

(3) In fulfilling the duties of the commission, the commission shall collaborate with the Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council created in Section 22-66-201.

(4) In fulfilling the commission's duties, the commission may:

(a) request and receive, from any state or local governmental agency or institution, information relating to early childhood, including reports, audits, projections, and statistics; and

(b) appoint special advisory groups to advise and assist the commission.

(5) Members of a special advisory group described in Subsection (4)(b):

(a) shall be appointed by the commission;

(b) may include:

(i) members of the commission; and

(ii) individuals from the private or public sector; and

(c) may not receive reimbursement or pay for work done in relation to the special advisory group.

(6) A special advisory group created in accordance with Subsection (4)(b) shall report to the commission on the progress of the special advisory group.

Section 11. Section **63M-13-204** is enacted to read:

**63M-13-204. Annual report.**

(1) On or before October 1 of each year, the commission shall provide a report to the governor and the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee.

(2) The annual report shall:

(a) describe how the commission fulfilled its statutory duties during the year;

(b) describe the commission's progress in developing and coordinating a comprehensive delivery system of services for children in early childhood; and

219            (c) include recommendations on how the state should act to address issues related to  
220   providing services for children in early childhood.